

A Whiting Tower special - Hurricane Pullout Section**Hurricane season runs June 1 to November 30****By AGC(SW) Christopher Cox**Chief Petty Officer-In-Charge,
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The hurricane season is now upon us and runs until Nov. 30. NAS Whiting Field is not immune to the possibility of a storm affecting the area. There are many things each of us should think about and do to prepare for a Tropical Cyclone.

First a quick lesson in what a tropical cyclone is and how it works. A "Tropical Cyclone" is a generic term given to all storms originating over tropical or subtropical waters, with organized convection and a definite closed cyclonic surface wind circulation.

Once formed, a tropical cyclone is maintained from the heat of warm ocean waters and the export of this heat in the upper atmosphere. Basically it becomes a big chimney. It differs from frontal systems formed north in the winter, which derive their energy from temperature contrasts in the atmosphere.

Once a tropical cyclone is formed it goes through different stages of life. They begin as a tropical depression. At this point the storm does not have a name and its winds are greater than 34 knots. They are basically one big thunderstorm. As the

storm intensifies it becomes a tropical storm and is given a name. The winds associated with this are 34-63 knots.

Tropical Storms can do significant damage due to torrential rains and flooding. This was evident when Tropical Storm Barry moved along the gulf coast and caused major flooding along the way. The last stage of the tropical cyclone is the Hurricane (winds 64 knots and greater).

Hurricanes are divided into five categories based upon their wind strength and the damage that they will produce. Category 1 storms are the weakest with 5 being the strongest. Hurricane Opal, the last major storm to hit the area, was a Category 4 at the strongest stage over the Gulf of Mexico.

What should you do to prepare in the event of a tropical cyclone? First you should make a plan for your family. Just a few things you should do are locating the safest areas in your home or community such as hurricane shelters.

You should have a disaster supply kit with many things including water, canned food, batteries, flashlights and first aid kits. Secure any loose items around your home that might become a missile hazard in the

event of strong winds. Listen to or watch the latest radio and television coverage to receive the latest directions from local authorities. The National Hurricane Center has a very good website to assist you in planning for hurricane season. The link is <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HA/W2/english/intro.shtml>.

The Internet has a wealth of information on hurricanes and what to do to prepare. A quick trip to a search engine and typing in hurricanes will give that to you.

NTMOD Whiting Field has a tropical support webpage

where conditions of readiness for the field, storm tracks and other information may be found. The link is <https://web.nlmof.navy.mil/wf/> then go to Tropical cyclone info.

Tropical cyclones should not be taken lightly. We have learned this from past storms. Hurricane Opal was the fourth costliest storm in terms of damage and 16th strongest in history and it affected the local area. It can and probably will happen again.

Your best defense against storms is to prepare early.

Important numbers to know**NAS Whiting Field**

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - 623-7587

NAS Pensacola

EOC - 452-4481

Quarterdeck (QD) - 452-2353

NTTC Corry Station

EOC - 452-6512/6513

QD - 452-6512/6513

NETPMSAA Saufley Field

EOC - 452-1628

QD - 452-1628

NAVTRAMETOCFAC (weather recording) - 452-3230**Santa Rosa Emergency Management - 983-5360****Escambia County Emergency Management - 595-3311**

In the event no communication is possible with local commands after a storm, evacuees should monitor local media broadcasts for pertinent storm recovery status and recall instructions.

Hurricane names for 2005

<i>Arlene</i>	<i>Lee</i>
<i>Bret</i>	<i>Maria</i>
<i>Cindy</i>	<i>Nate</i>
<i>Dennis</i>	<i>Ophelia</i>
<i>Emily</i>	<i>Phillipe</i>
<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Rita</i>
<i>Gert</i>	<i>Stan</i>
<i>Harvey</i>	<i>Tammy</i>
<i>Irene</i>	<i>Vince</i>
<i>Jose</i>	<i>Wilma</i>
<i>Katrina</i>	

Primary Santa Rosa County shelters

Berryhill Elementary	4900 Berryhill Road, Milton
Central High	6180 Central School Rd., Allentown
Jay High	4955 S. Alabama St., Jay
Milton High	5445 N. Stewart St., Milton
King Middle	2400 N. Stewart St., Milton
Pace High	4065 Norris Rd., Pace

The Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations Center phone number is 983-5360. The Escambia County Operations Center phone number is 436-3311.

Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness officials will announce when shelters are open. Either leave your pets at home or make other arrangements for lodging them.

Hurricane preparedness guidelines, supply kit items

What to do during a Hurricane Watch

- Have a battery-powered radio to receive emergency information.
- Fuel car.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Bring all outdoor objects inside the house.
- Close all storm shutters or cover all windows with plywood.
- Secure garage door.
- Review evacuation plan.
- Move boats to a safe place or tie them down.

What to do during a Hurricane Warning

- Constantly listen to the local radio and television channels.
- Local TV channels are 3, 5, 10 and 15.
- Local radio stations are 1370 AM, 88.1 FM and 100.7 FM.
- Regularly monitor a battery-operated NOAA weather radio.
- If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.
- Stay out of elevators.

If staying at home:

- Stay inside, away from windows and glass.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles, etc.
- Keep flashlights handy.
- If electricity is lost, turn off major appliances.

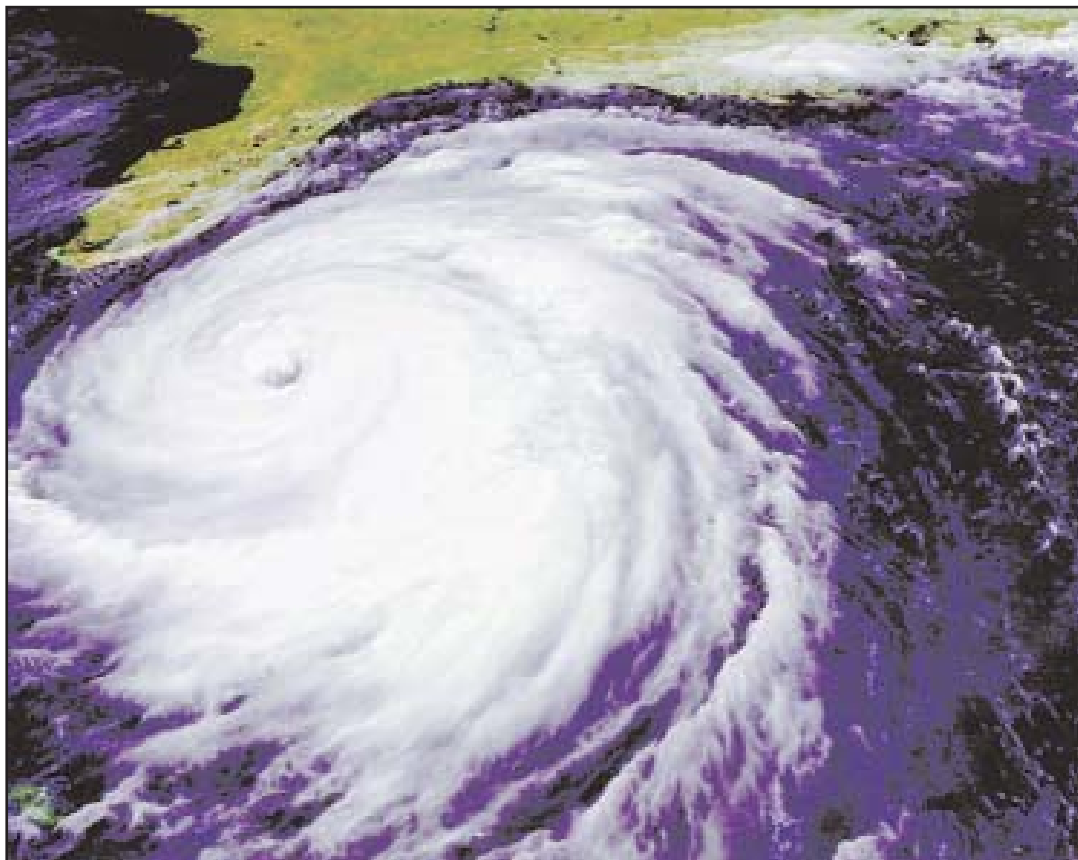
If ordered to evacuate:

- Leave in the daylight if possible.
- Turn off electricity, gas and water if instructed by officials.
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
- Take pre-assembled emergency supplies and warm clothing.
- Elevate furniture to protect from flooding (if time permits).
- Call an out-of-town friend to tell them where you are going.
- Lock up home.

Hurricane Supply Kit

Water

- Store one gallon of water per person per day. Keep at least a three-day supply of water for each person.
- Try to store the water in plastic containers.



Food

- Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable foods. Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation, no cooking and little or no water.
- Suggested foods are:
 - Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
 - Canned juices and soup.
 - High energy food (peanut butter, jelly, granola bars).
 - Vitamins
 - Comfort foods (cookies, candy, coffee, etc.)
- Other recommended food options are:
 - Compressed food bars:
 - Trail mix
 - Dried foods
 - Snack sized canned goods
 - Pre-packaged beverages

First Aid supplies

- Assemble first aid kits for your home and for your car.

Tools

- Items to remember:
 - Plates, cups and utensils
 - Compass
 - Batteries

- Matches
- Battery-operated radio
- Aluminum foil
- Flashlights
- Plastic containers
- Cash and travelers checks
- Signal flare
- Manual can opener
- Paper and pens/pencils
- Fire extinguisher
- Needles and thread
- Tube tent
- Medicine dropper
- Water/gas shutoff wrench
- Pliers
- Tape and plastic sheeting
- Whistle
- Map

Clothing and bedding

- Include at least one complete change of clothing and foot gear per person.
- Other items to consider:
 - Sturdy shoes or work boots
 - Rain gear
 - Blankets and sleeping bags
 - Hat and gloves
 - Thermal underwear
 - Sunglasses

Important family documents and items should be kept in a

waterproof, portable container, such as:

- Will, insurance, contracts, deeds, stock and bonds
- Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- Bank account numbers
- Credit card account company numbers
- Inventory of household goods
- Family records (birth and marriage certificates, etc.)

Sanitation supplies

- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Plastic bucket with tight lid
- Small shovel for digging latrines
- Household chlorine bleach
- Personal hygiene items
- Soap, liquid detergent, disinfectant
- Feminine supplies
- Plastic garbage bags and ties for disposing of waste.

Information source: "Tropical Cyclone Preparedness," compiled by NETC/Pensacola Disaster Preparedness Office.

Evacuation: Should I stay or should I go?

Milton and Pensacola are cities where the threat of hurricanes is a fact of life. We live in areas that are close to the water, low in elevation, subject to severe damage from storm surge, intense wind and could become isolated due to flooding.

The specific evacuation plan ordered by the authorities, including which areas to evacuate, will depend on the unique circumstances of each storm and will be based on the best available information regarding the storm's direction, intensity and associated storm surge. The specific evacuation plan will also be based on consideration of the following facts:

- Santa Rosa and Escambia county road systems currently do not allow for an easy, effective resident evacuation to outlying areas. Roads could quickly become gridlocked or travel could slow to a point where a safe evacuation distance isn't possible.

- The evacuation route, east or west of I-10, will depend on the projected direction of the storm. The escape route to the north is hindered by single-lane roads.

- Evacuations from military housing areas to designated shelters located in Northwest Pensacola may take as long as six hours during periods of mass evacuations. Evacuations from other housing areas may take even longer.

Evacuation plans also consider high winds and storm surge to vulnerable areas such as:

- (1) Campgrounds;
- (2) Mobile homes; and,
- (3) Housing located in low-lying areas.

Military residents NOT living in on-base government housing, BOQs/BEQs, will follow county evacuation direction and utilize county-provided shelters if instructed to do so by civil authority.

When a hurricane threatens the area, you will have to make the decision to evacuate or to stay and ride out the storm safely in your home. Local and military officials will advise you in the best course of action.



- You may consider staying home if the following conditions apply:

- You live outside the evacuation zone;
- You live in a sturdy house away from prone areas; or
- You live on high ground, away from the coast.

If you meet the above criteria, the message from local emergency officials is stay home. In 1995, during hurricanes Erin and Opal, thousands of people were left stranded on the roadways in traffic jams while trying to escape on the day of the storm. Now is the time to decide whether you will stay or evacuate during a hurricane. If you choose to evacuate, do so days in advance. Keep in mind, a sturdy home is just as safe as most public shelters, especially if storm shutters and other modifications are in place.

You should always evacuate under the following conditions:

- If you live in a storm surge area and authorities call for evacuation.

ation.

- If you live on the coastline or offshore islands.

- If you live in a mobile home.

- If you live near a river or in a floodplain.

If you decide to evacuate, remember the following items:

- Try to leave in the daylight if possible.

- Carry your disaster supply kit (as described on the previous page).

- If time permits, elevate your furniture to avoid flood damage.

- Turn off electricity, gas and water as instructed by local authorities.

- Call an out of town friend or relative and let them know where you are going and when you are leaving.

- Lock up your home.

Contact your County Emergency Management Office to find out if you are in a storm surge area.

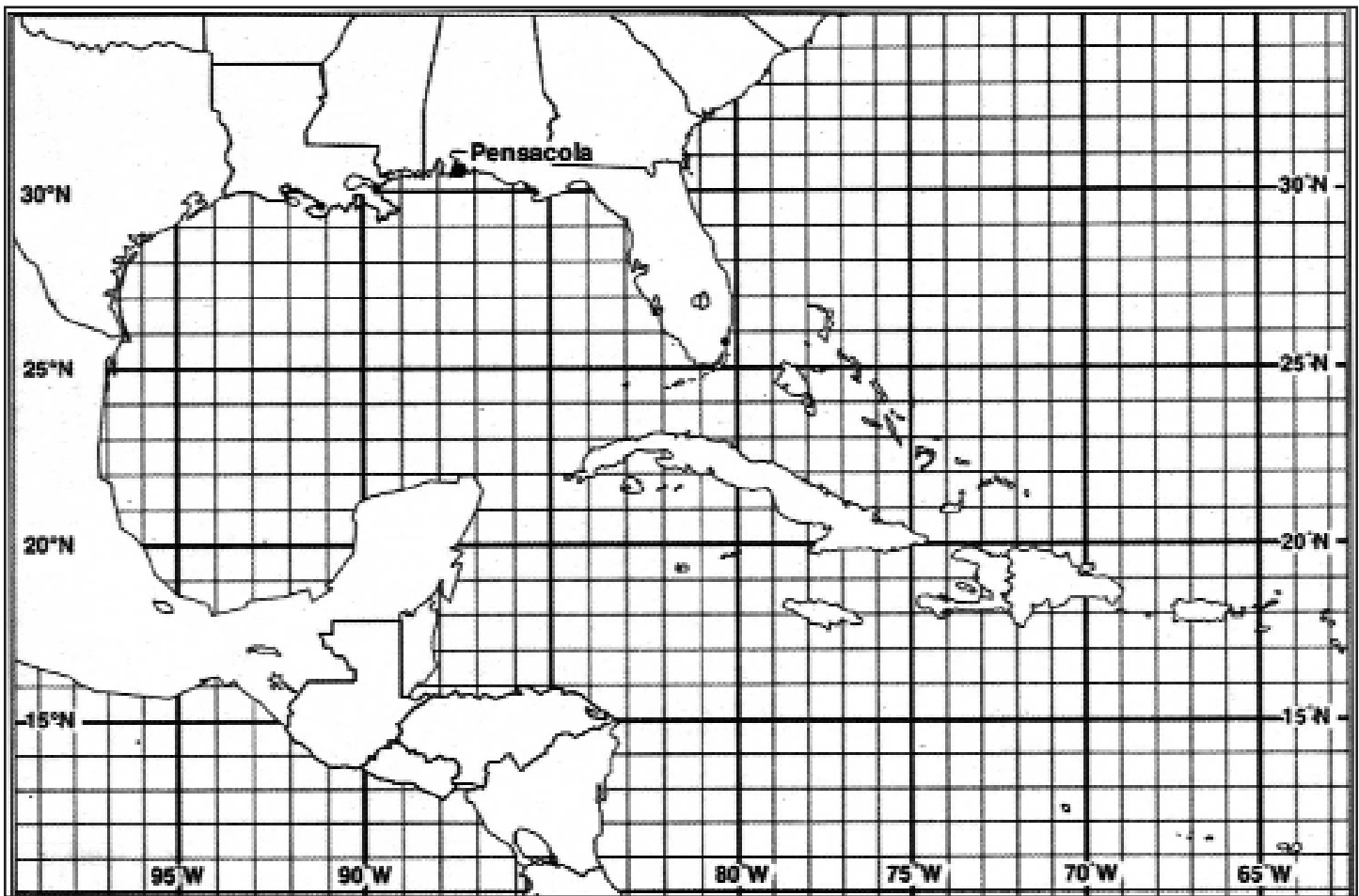
Because of the adequate

advance notice required and the current evacuation route structure, out-of-area evacuations are considered ineffective. However, if deemed necessary, proper authorities will advise evacuees on where to go.

If a hurricane of an extreme magnitude poses great damage potential to personnel and property, military authorities may make the decision to evacuate and close local area bases. Should an evacuation order be given, all non-emergency personnel, both military and civilian, must evacuate. On-base shelters will not be activated. Based on all available information, every attempt will be made to provide a minimum of 12 hours notification of evacuation. All precautionary measures to minimize damage to property should be taken within this 12-hour window, if not already accomplished. Everyone should familiarize themselves with evacuation routes prior to hurricane season.

Private vehicles should be used to the maximum extent possible while evacuating in order to ensure a safe and complete evacuation. Those persons who are ordered to evacuate but have no means of transportation are strongly encouraged to find an alternate means of transportation; i.e., with a friend. If alternate means are not available, report to the designated evacuation staging area (contact the base EOC for designated staging area). Personnel who evacuate via their private vehicles are encouraged to travel to a pre-planned, safe location or seek shelter per directives issued by county emergency management.

Remember that your personal evacuation plan may depend on your work station. Some military personnel may be on the job and away from their family during the storm. Know what your command expects of you in advance. Know in advance where your family will be and how you can contact them. Find out when your command permits personnel to attend to family matters and when you are expected to return to work.



Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale** is a one to five rating based on the hurricane's present intensity. This is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Wind speed is the determining factor in the scale, as storm surge values are highly dependent on the slope of the continental shelf in the landfall region. Note that all winds are using the U.S. one-minute average.

Category One Hurricane:

Winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt or 119-153 kph). Storm surge generally four to five feet above normal. No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage.

Category Two Hurricane:

Winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt

or 154-177 kph). Storm surge generally six to eight feet above normal. Some roofing material, door and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees with some trees blown down. Considerable damage to mobile homes, poorly constructed signs and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood two to four hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

Category Three Hurricane:

Winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt or 178-209 kph). Storm surge generally nine to 12 feet above normal. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings, with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Damage to shrubbery and trees with foliage blown off trees and large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly constructed signs are destroyed. Low-lying escape routes are cut by rising water three to five hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures

with larger structures by battering floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than five feet above mean sea level may be flooded inland eight miles (13 km) or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences with several blocks of the shoreline may be required. Hurricane Georges was a Category Three storm when it made landfall at Biloxi, Miss. on September 1998.

Category Four Hurricane:

Winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt or 210-249 kph). Storm surge generally 13-18 feet above normal. More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failures on small residences. Shrubs, trees and all signs are blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to doors and windows. Low-lying escape routes may be cut by rising water three to five hours before arrival of the hurricane center. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded, requiring massive evacuation of

residential areas as far inland as six miles.

Category Five Hurricane:

Winds greater than 155 mph (135 kt or 249 kph). Storm surge generally greater than 18 feet above normal. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. All shrubs, trees and signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Severe and extensive window and door damage. Low-lying escape routes are cut by rising water three to five hours before the arrival of the hurricane center. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet above sea level and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within five to 10 miles (eight to 16 km) of the shoreline may be required. Hurricane Gilbert of 1988 was a Category Five hurricane at peak intensity and is the strongest Atlantic tropical cyclone of record.